

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 (currently amended). An instrument insertable into a medium and being capable of detection by sonic imaging equipment ~~comprises~~ comprising:

an elongate member, for insertion into said medium and having a region the position of which it is desirable to monitor;

bubble generating means, for generating a plurality of discrete mobile bubbles at said region, whereby said bubbles are detectable by sonic imaging equipment, ~~characterised in that~~;

said bubble generating means ~~comprises~~ comprising two elements which, upon contact with each other in the presence of a fluid, react with each other to produce said gas bubbles and in which, said elements ~~comprise~~ comprising first and second radially displaced layers of said elements within a fluid permeable carrier material.

2 (currently amended). An instrument as claimed in Claim 1 ~~and further~~ including a fluid permeable intermediate layer between said two ~~element~~ elements containing layers.

3 (canceled).

4 (canceled).

5 (currently amended). An instrument as claimed in Claim 1 ~~and~~ including a primer layer on said instrument upon which said fluid permeable carrier material is deposited.

6 (currently amended). An instrument as claimed in Claim 4 ~~and~~ including a primer layer on said instrument upon which said fluid permeable foundation layer is situated.

7 (previously presented). An instrument as claimed in Claim 1 in which said carrier material comprises a hydrophilic material.

8 (canceled).

9 (previously presented). An instrument as claimed in Claim 1 in which said two elements comprise citric acid and sodium hydrogen carbonate.

10 (original). An instrument as claimed in Claim 9 in which the citric acid comprises dissolved citric acid.

11 (previously presented). An instrument as claimed in Claim 1 in which said first layer comprises a radially inner layer and comprises citric acid and said second layer comprises a radially outer layer and comprises sodium hydrogen carbonate.

12 (previously presented). An instrument as claimed in Claim 1 in which said first layer comprises a radially inner layer and comprises sodium hydrogen carbonate and said second layer comprises a radially outer layer and comprises citric acid.

13 (previously presented). An instrument as claimed in Claim 2 in which said intermediate layer comprises a hydrophilic material.

14 (canceled).

15 (previously presented). An instrument as claimed in Claim 1 in which said elongate member includes a prepared surface prepared by solvent degreasing or wet blasting.

16 (original). An instrument as claimed in Claim 15 when having a wet blasted surface.

17 (previously presented). An instrument as claimed in Claim 5 in which said primer layer comprises an acid etched layer.

18 (previously presented). An instrument as claimed in Claim 5 in which said primer layer comprises a chromate free water based primer (Cytec BR6752) or Chronoflex™ AL80A.

19 (currently amended). An instrument as claimed in Claim 1 in which the ratio of bubble generating means to carry carrier material in said first or said second layer is between 20% and 200% by weight.

20 (currently amended). An instrument as claimed in Claim 1 in which the ratio of the first to the second reactive agents two elements is substantially 50/50 (by weight).

21 (previously presented). An instrument as claimed in Claim 1 in which said bubble generating means is provided at one or more discrete portions along said elongate member.

22 (previously presented). An instrument as claimed in Claim 1 in which said bubble generating means is provided along a substantial length of said elongate member.

23 (canceled).

24 (original). A method of producing an instrument as claimed in Claim 1 comprising the steps of:

c) depositing onto the instrument a first layer containing a first of two elements which, upon contact with each other in the presence of a liquid, react with each other to produce gas bubbles, and

d) depositing onto the first layer a second layer containing a second of said

two elements.

25 (original). A method as claimed in Claim 24 including the further step of depositing a fluid permeable intermediate layer between said first and second layers.

26 (canceled).

27 (canceled).

28 (previously presented). A method as claimed in Claim 24 including the further step of depositing a primer layer onto said instrument prior to any of the layers as defined above.

29 (previously presented). A method as claimed in Claim 24 in which the first and second layers comprise a hydrophilic material.

30 (canceled).

31 (previously presented). A method as claimed in Claim 24 in which said two elements comprise citric acid and sodium hydrogen carbonate.

32 (original). A method as claimed in Claim 31 in which said two elements comprise dissolved citric acid and sodium carbonate particles.

33 (previously presented). A method as claimed in Claim 24 in which said first layer comprises citric acid and said second layer comprises sodium hydrogen carbonate.

34 (previously presented). A method as claimed in Claim 24 in which said first layer comprises sodium hydrogen carbonate and said second layer comprises citric acid.

35 (previously presented). A method as claimed in Claim 25 in which said intermediate layer comprises a hydrophilic material.

36 (canceled).

37 (previously presented). A method as claimed in Claim 24 including the further step of preparing the instrument surface by solvent degreasing or wet blasting.

38 (previously presented). A method as claimed in Claim 28 in which said primer layer comprises an acid etched layer.

39 (previously presented). A method as claimed in Claim 28 in which said primer layer comprises a chromate free water based primer (Cytec BR6752) or Chronoflex™ AL80A.

40 (previously presented). A method as claimed in Claim 24 including the step of adding the first and second elements to a carrier material to form said layers and in which said elements are added to said carrier material in a ratio of between 20% and 200% by weight.

41 (currently amended). A method as claimed in Claim 24 in which the first ~~and second reactive~~ two elements are added in a ratio of substantially 50/50 by weight.

42 (previously presented). A method as claimed in Claim 24 including the step of applying the layers at one or more discrete portions along said elongate member.

43 (canceled).